

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action dated June 18, 2004. By said action, claims 1, 2, 3, 10, 17, 20 – 23 were rejected over Barrett in view of Johnson and Zimmermann et al. Claims 4, 5, 18 and 19 were rejected as obvious over the above combination of references further in view of Takeshita. Claims 6 – 9 and 11 – 16 were objected to, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

While traversing the above rejections, Applicant, in order to obtain an early issuance of the allowable claims, has rewritten claim 11 in independent form as amended claim 3, and rewritten claim 6 in independent form. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application with respect to original claims 1 – 5 and 17 – 23.

Claims 3 – 10 and 12 – 16 remain in the application, and are in allowable condition.

Correction to the drawing and specification requested by the Examiner have been effected. Substituted formal drawing is attached herewith.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 1, 2004

In the Drawings:

Permission is requested to correct Fig. 1 as shown in red ink changing "(23)" to "(16)" on the attached photocopy.



Figure 1

